



FOIA request from the Chicago Tribune
Hawthorne, Michael

to:

Group R5Foia, Anne Rowan

04/25/2014 01:38 PM

Cc:

"Hawthorne, Michael"

Hide Details

From: "Hawthorne, Michael" <mhawthorne@tribune.com>

To: Group R5Foia/R5/USEPA/US@EPA, Anne Rowan/R5/USEPA/US@MSO365,

Cc: "Hawthorne, Michael" <mhawthorne@tribune.com>

April 25, 2013

FOIA REQUEST

Dear FOI Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. s. 552, I request access to any and all EPA emails, internal memos, correspondence with other state and federal agencies and other documents from March 24, 2014 to present regarding an oil spill into Lake Michigan from the BP refinery in Whiting, Ind. I am requesting these documents in electronic format.

Through this request, I am gathering information about the oil spill and potential threats to drinking water supplied to more than 7 million people in Chicago and its suburbs.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. Timely release of the information is crucial so the public can make informed decisions about government policy.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone, rather than by mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

Please provide expedited review of this request, which concerns a matter of urgency. As a journalist, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information.

The public has an urgent need for information about the oil spill and potential threats to public health and the environment. The public should be able make known its views about EPA activities in a timely manner.

I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited review are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael Hawthorne
Chicago Tribune
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Desk: (312) 222-3315 Mobile: (312) 731-3639